

OPEN LETTERS.

A TROPICAL LABORATORY.

To the Editors of the Botanical Gazette:—The recent editorial in the GAZETTE concerning the establishment of a laboratory in the tropics, in the opinion of the writer, calls attention both to the most pressing needs of American botany, and to the most important means of advancement and preservation of the integrity of the science in general. Previously to the appearance of your editorial I had sent to press in the *Popular Science Monthly* an article in which I had touched upon this point. Partial notes upon several problems, the solution of which may only be accomplished in the tropics, have accumulated in my laboratory, and an expedition to the West Indies in the summer of 1897 has been planned for the purpose of beginning work and selecting a suitable locality for its annual continuance. Necessarily temporary quarters would have been secured each year. I would welcome the establishment of a permanent tropical laboratory open to students during the entire year and free from the inconvenience of temporary facilities, to say nothing of the manifold advantages afforded by such an institution in the matter of equipment and accessibility of material.

I would gladly put aside plans already formed and cooperate in any effort leading to the organization and selection of a locality for a laboratory of this character, or aid in any movement leading to its establishment.—D. T. MACDOUGAL, *State University of Minnesota.*

THE BUITENZORG GARDENS.

To the Editors of the Botanical Gazette:—The following excerpts from a letter recently received from Mr. David G. Fairchild, who is making some special studies at the Botanic Gardens, Buitenzorg, Java, may be of interest to the readers of the GAZETTE:

“Dr. Treub, the director of the gardens, is taking steps to establish an international affair here, similar to that at Naples, except that the whole expense of running such a place will be borne by the Dutch government. I am anxious to see a table here and hope when I return to get assistance in bringing this about. What is needed is a yearly or bi-yearly grant which will enable a botanist or zoologist to spend six or eight months at the gardens. Tickets are now sold from Hong Kong to New York for forty-five pounds